THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) The Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) aims to provide all weather road connectivity to about 1.60 lakh Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas by the end of the Tenth Plan Period (2007). No annual target is fixed for the number of habitations to be covered in a year and State Governments forward proposals for raod works based on the State-wise allocation and as per Guidelines. The number of habitations to be covered under the PMGSY for 2003-04 would become available after proposals from all the States have been cleared.

(b) and (c) The Revised Guidelines of PMGSY issued in January, 2003 has addressed the requests made by certain Hill States regarding review of norms relating to the population size of habitations. In respect of the Hill States (North East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal) and the Desert Areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme) as well as the Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the objective of the PMGSY is to connect habitations with a population of 250 persons and above. The Guidelines also provide for clubbing together the population of all habitations within a radius of 500 metres (1.5 km. of path distance in case of Hills) for the purpose of determining the population size. This cluster approach would enable provision of connectivity to a larger number of habitations, particularly in the Hill/ Mountainous areas.

ISI Network in various cities

218. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Saharanpur, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh and Surat and Ahmedabad in Gujarat are targets of ISI network;

(b) the details of the action taken by Government to check such activities; and

(c) the number of persons nabbed from these places during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The Government is aware that Pak ISI has been aiding, abetting and supporting terrorism in various parts of the country including in U.P. and Gujarat.

(b) and (c) In order to deal with the situation, the Government has adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening the border management, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, neutralizing plans of terrorist groups/anti-national elements/ ISI agents by well coordinated intelligence based operations. From time to time, the Central Government has been sensitizing the State Governments about threat perception and evolving strategies to counter the situation. As a result of the coordinated action by the Central and State agencies, a number of Pak backed terrorist/espionage modules have been detected/neutralized in various parts of the country. During 2000-2002, 16 espionage cases in U.P. and 2 cases in Gujarat were detected. During the same period, 13 Pak backed terrorist/subversion modules in U.P. and 5 in Gujarat were busted.

WRITTEN ANSWERSTO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Lignite deposits found in Barmer, Rajasfhan

1387. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) details of lignite deposits found in Barmer District of Rajasthan;

(b) at what depth those lignite deposits are situated;

(c) the details to proposals received for mining of those lignite deposits;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan have sent to the Central Government the proposals of three companies for setting up of thermal power plants for the extraction of lignite from those mines and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government are contemplating to clear those proposals?